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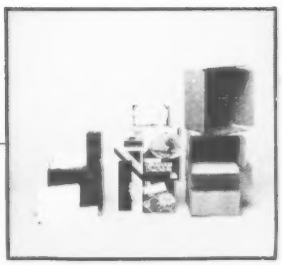
On the Cover:

The Midyear Review (see page 18) shows revived markets in all areas of paperboard packaging, a change for the better that should continue until the end of the year.



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August: Operator Training/Preprinted Linerboard

September: Statistics Review/AICC 10th Anniversary

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Editorial Offices

Paperboard Packaging
7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130 ☐ 216-243-8100 ☐ Telex: 968918
111 E Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 ☐ 312-938-2351
747 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 ☐ 212-418-4145 ☐ Telex: 968918

Official Board Markets
111 E. Wacker Drive, 17th floor Chicago, IL 60601 ☐ 312-938-2335

Europe
HBJ Publications, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX ☐ Telex: 25775

Marketing Sales Offices

Eastern
Ralph D. Wheeler ☐ 747 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 ☐ 212-418-4145 ☐ Telex: 968918

Midwest & West Coast
Richard Perkins ☐ 111 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 ☐ 312-938-2351
Brian McGoldrick ☐ 111 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 ☐ 312-938-2338

Europe
Dee Wakefield ☐ HBJ Publications, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX ☐ Telex: 25775

Japan
Sumio Oka ☐ International Media Rep., Ltd., 2-29 Toranomon 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105 Japan, 502-0656 ☐ Telex: J22633 ☐ Cables: MEDIAREP TOKYO

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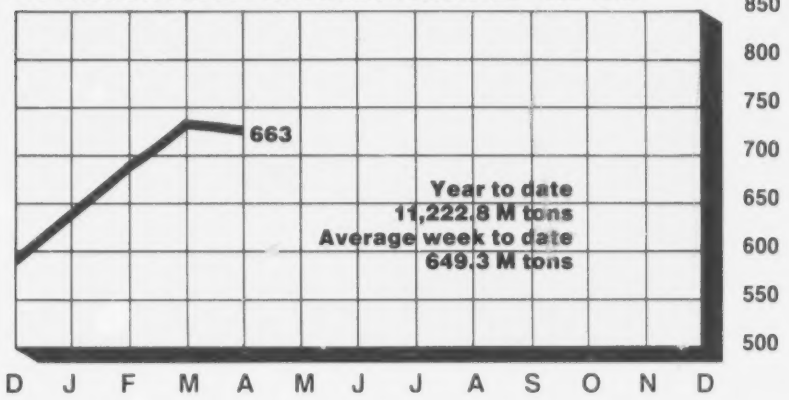
STATISTICS FOR 1984

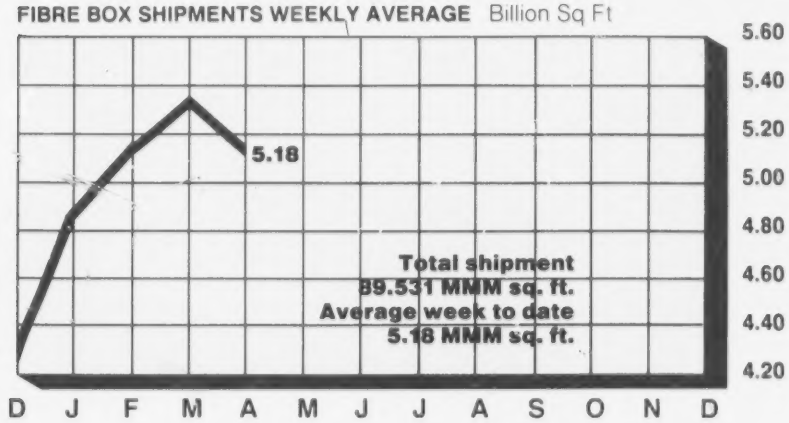
PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION WEEKLY AVERAGE 1000 Tons



PAPERBOARD MILL OPERATIONS

The year's first third ended with an average-week production 10.3% above 1983, which had been 3.4% above the average in 1982, which had been 7.1% below '81. This indicates that the current level is well above that previously considered a "normally good" year, and suggests that perhaps the national industrial climate is rising to a new "normal" plateau. Thus, the 1984 output volume at the end of the quarter was 11.7% ahead of same-time tonnage in 1979—a year that had held the all-time annual record for production until 1983.

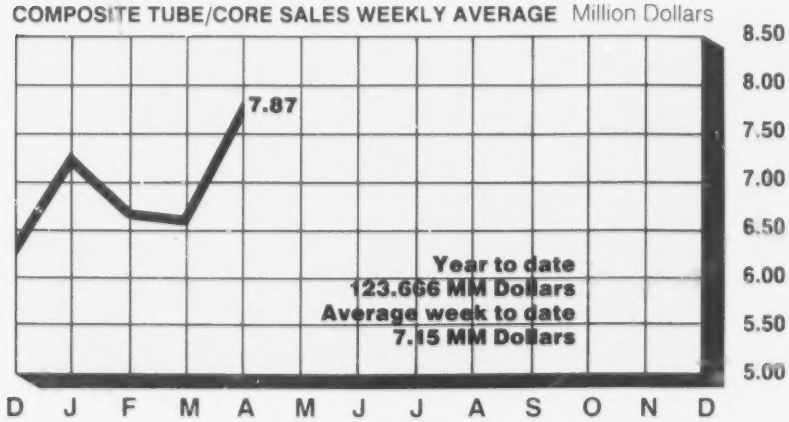
FIBRE BOX SHIPMENTS WEEKLY AVERAGE Billion Sq Ft



PAPERBOARD-TYPE PRODUCTION

In April, 2842.4M tons of board output made 2152.9M of containerboard types, up 10.6% from '83, plus 689.5M tons of boxboards, 9.6% up from last year but actually 2.2% below the volume of that 1979 month. This again illustrates the effects upon "carton" boards of long-term inroads by alternate packaging forms and materials. By contrast, materials for corrugated containers were up 15.8% from the 1979 month, since their converted products are not subject to such competition, and just had their highest quarter ever.

COMPOSITE TUBE/CORE SALES WEEKLY AVERAGE Million Dollars



RIGID PAPER BOXES

Through the first four months of 1984, "set-up" box billings were up only 2.8% from '83, which had been down 3% from '82, which was about even with '81, which had been up 10% from 1980 for major producers reporting to the National Paperbox & Packaging Association. Geographical variations remain great, with monthly extremes plus-or-minus in double digits. At quarter-end, three of the eight NP&PA divisions were below billings of last year, with severe declines in the cities and improvements in less-industrialized areas.